

## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A low color or colorless polymaleate as determined by a Gardner color number of 8 or less, ~~said polymaleate is prepared by aqueous solution polymerization~~ comprising:  
70 to 100 weight percent, based on the total weight of monomer, of maleic acid; and  
0.5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , based on the moles of monomer, of a polyvalent transition metal ion selected from group consisting of Group IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA, IB, IIB, and combinations thereof;  
wherein said polymaleate is prepared by aqueous solution polymerization, provided that  
[[40]] 45 to 55 mole percent of the carboxylic acid groups on the maleic acid are neutralized prior to polymerization.
2. (Original) The polymaleate according to claim 1 wherein 45 to 50 mole percent of the carboxylic acid groups on the maleic acid are neutralized prior to polymerization.
3. (New) A textile comprising the polymaleate of claim 1.
4. (New) The polymaleate of claim 3 further comprising a catalyst.
5. (New) A cleaning composition comprising the polymaleate of claim 1.
6. (New) The cleaning composition of claim 4 wherein the polymaleate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50 weight %, based on total weight of the composition.
7. (New) The cleaning composition of claim 5 wherein the polymaleate is present in an amount of 0.5 to 20 weight %, based on total weight of the composition.

8. (New) The cleaning composition of claim 4 wherein the cleaning composition is selected from the group consisting of laundry detergents, pre-spotters, dishwashing detergents and hard surface cleaners.
9. (New) The cleaning composition of claim 4 further comprising at least one surfactant.